LAWS

OF THE

PHYSICAL SOCIETY

HELD AT

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

LONDON:

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M.DCC.LXXXIII.

LAWS, &c.

CHAP. I.

TIME OF MEETING.

RULE I.

THE Members of the PHYSICAL SOCIETY shall convene upon the first *Saturday* of *October*, (at a Place to be assigned by the Majority on the last Meeting of the Society for the preceding Season,) and on the same Day of every Week thereafter, till the last *Saturday* of *May* following.

II.

Every ordinary Member, who may fail to be present when the Names are called over at the Time appointed for meeting (See ORDER OF THE BUSINESS, CHAP. XIII.) on each Evening, shall, for every such Transgression, forfeit Sixpence, unless he sends a sufficient Excuse on the same Meeting. — If any Member doubts the Propriety of the Excuse, it shall be put to the Ballot, and a Majority shall determine the Point.

III.

Any ordinary Member, abſenting himſelf for five Nights ſucceſſively, and not offering any Excuſe, during that Time, for his Abſence, ſhall be expelled.

CHAP. II.

DISSERTATIONS.

RULE I.

At every Meeting of the Society, a Diſſertation ſhall be read, on a medical, chirurgical, or philoſophical, Subject.

II.

Every ordinary Member, at the firſt Time of meeting, under the Penalty of One Shilling, ſhall give in, on a Piece of Paper, the Subject on which he means to write; and ſuch Members as are afterwards choſen ſhall do the ſame, the Week after their Admiſſion. Each of them ſhall write in Rotation; and, if any one neglects to bring in his Paper, he ſhall forfeit Ten Shillings and Sixpence, unleſs he can get another Member to produce a Paper in his Room; in which Caſe he ſhall be allowed a Fortnight longer. If, however, he neglects to produce it at the Expiration of that Time, he ſhall pay his Forfeit.

III.

III.

The Member whoſe Turn it is to write ſhall give in his Paper on the ſame Evening that the Paper preceding his ſhall be firſt read in the Society. On Failure, he ſhall forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence. This, however, may be remitted by the Determination of the Majority of the Society, if any Circumſtances ſhall appear that tend to excuſe the Member.

IV.

The Paper, when given in, ſhall remain Two Days in the Library; when any Gentleman may have Liberty to peruſe it. The Preſident ſhall then keep it till the Time appointed for its Conſideration.

V.

The Diſſertation ſhall be read by the Author, in the Preſence of the Society, under the Penalty of Five Shillings. This Fine, however, may be remitted in Conſequence of a ſufficient Excuſe preſented to the Society on or before the Meeting immediately following the Offence. Under the ſame Penalty, and to be remitted only with the ſame Conditions, the Author ſhall attend the Society during the Diſcuſſion of his Diſſertation.

VI.

After the Diſſertation has been read by the Author, the Preſident then in the Chair ſhall read the Paper over again, and alſo point out

out such Parts of it as may appear to him proper Objects of the Society's Consideration; and such Remarks as may occur to any Person present may then be offered.

VII.

No Dissertation shall be the Subject of Discussion more than two Meetings.

VIII.

The oldest ordinary Member present at the Beginning of each Season, who has not before written, shall read the first Dissertation of that Season, and shall be succeeded in the Office of Author by the younger Members, in the Order of their Proximity to him in Point of Seniority.

IX.

An honorary Member, if he chooses to favour the Society with a Dissertation, may read it at any Meeting, with this Condition, that public Notice of his Intention shall have been given, on or before the Meeting immediately preceding that on which he intends to read it. This Condition, however, shall not be necessary if the first Meeting of a Season is that on which an honorary Member chooses to read his Dissertation. When an honorary Member uses the Privilege provided for him by this Law, the ordinary Member, whose Paper ought to be read according to the Course of Rotation, shall postpone it till the next Meeting not occupied by the Dissertation of an honorary Member.

er. After an honorary Member has ſigni-
ed, in the Manner above directed, his In-
ention to read a Diſſertation, a Failure in
ie Performance of it ſhall ſubject him to
ne ſame Fine which an ordinary Member
ould incur by a like Fault.

CHAP. III.

PRESIDENTS.

RULE I.

The Teachers of Phyſic, Anatomy, Che-
iſtry, and Midwifery, ſhall be conſidered
s perpetual Preſidents.

II.

They ſhall attend the Society in the Cha-
acter of Preſidents alternately, and perform
ne Duties of their Office, under the Penalty
f Two Shillings and Sixpence for each
ranſgreſſion of this Rule; unleſs a ſufficient
xcuſe be preſented to the Society, on or be-
ore the next Meeting after the Tranſgreſſion.

III.

In the Abſence of the Preſidents, the
ldeſt Member preſent ſhall ſupply the Place,
nder the Penalty of Two Shillings and Six-
ence.

IV.

The Preſident in the Chair ſhall read over
gain, and point out to the Attention of the
Society,

Society, (as expreſſed in CHAP. II. RULE III.) ſuch Paſſages in the Diſſertations as he may think particularly worthy of its Notice: he ſhall call upon the Members for their Opinions: he ſhall check unprofitable Diſputes: and ſhall be inveſted with Power ſufficient to conduct every Part of the Society's Buſineſs with becoming Decorum.

V.

No Member, under the Penalty of One Shilling for each Offence, ſhall leave the Room where the Society is held, during the Time appointed for the Tranſaction of Buſineſs, without Leave of the Preſident.

VI.

In ſuch Queſtions as are to be determined by Vote or Ballot, if the Society ſhall happen to be equally divided, the Preſident then in the Chair, beſides his Vote as a Member ſhall, as Preſident, have the Privilege of the Caſting-Vote.

CHAP. IV.

MODE OF PROPOSING AND BALLOTING FOR MEMBERS, &c.

RULE I.

When any Gentleman is propoſed as Member, the Member propoſing him ſhall not fail to mention his Reſidence, and to give

give ſome Account of his Character, that the Society may the better judge how far he is deſerving of the Honour. Such Propoſal muſt be ſeconded; and then, on the ſucceeding Evening, it will be balloted for. — For the proper Time of propoſing Members, ſee CHAP. XIII. ORDER OF THE BUSINESS.

At the Time that the Names of the ordinary Members are called over, the Secretary ſhall deliver to each of them, as well as to the honorary Members preſent, a Piece of Paper on which the Name or Names of thoſe that are to be balloted for are diſtinctly written; and each Member ſhall mark, oppoſite to each Name, YES or NO, according as he wiſhes to approve or reject. Theſe are to be collected in a ſmall Box, to be ſent round for the Purpoſe, and which is afterwards to be placed upon the Table, until the Arrival of the proper Time to declare the State of the Ballot.

II.

If a Candidate has no more than two Negatives againſt him, he ſhall be admitted; but, if there are more than two, he ſhall be refuſed. —— For the Form of admitting a Member after he is elected, ſee CHAP. XIII. ORDER OF THE BUSINESS.

III.

A Copy of the Laws ſhall be ſent to the new-elected Member by the Perſon who propoſed him; and, if he neglects to ſubſcribe to them, in the Preſence of the Society, the

two ſucceeding Meetings, he ſhall be fined Two Shillings and Sixpence each Meeting; and, if he neglects it on the third, he ſhall forfeit his Seat.

IV.

To decide any other Queſtion, the Mode of balloting ſhall be by Show of Hands. — Any one refuſing to hold up his Hand, on one or other Side, ſhall be fined One Shilling.

CHAP. V.

HONORARY AND CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

RULE I.

Phyſicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, Men of Eminence in any of the Sciences, and ſuch ordinary Members as may have diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their Ingenuity and Endeavours to promote the Good of the Society, can alone be propoſed as Honorary Members.

II.

If a Perſon, in any of theſe Characters, be propoſed by a Member as worthy of an honorary Seat, his Admiſſion or Rejection ſhall be determined by Ballot, in the Manner expreſſed in CHAP. IV. But, in this Caſe, as well as in the Caſe of ordinary Members, the Determination of the Society ſhall be kept

ſecret,

ſecret, under the Penalty of Half a Guinea, to be paid by the Member who ſhall be found to divulge it.

III.

Thoſe of the ordinary Members, who are entitled to petition for honorary Seats, are the Members who have attended the Society two Seaſons, and have read two Diſſertations. The Petitions of ſuch muſt be given in, and read to, the Society, by the Preſident in the Chair, a Week before they can be balloted for; and cannot be granted if there are more than two Negatives. If, however, there are no more than two, the Deſire expreſſed in the Petitions ſhall be complied with.

IV.

The Privileges of Honorary Members ſhall be the following. — They ſhall not be obliged to write Diſſertations; to attend the Meetings of the Society oftener than may be agreeable to them; nor to contribute any Thing towards the Library, or in any other Way to the Support of the Society's Expence. They ſhall not be obliged to accept of any Share of the Buſineſs of a Committee: but, after having accepted of it, they ſhall, in ſo far as they are connected with ſuch Committee, be conſidered as ordinary Members, and be ſubject to the ſame Fines, for the Breach of any Law reſpecting ſuch Committee, which an ordinary Member would incur by a ſimilar Fault. They may preſent and read Diſſertations to the Society when

they pleaſe, with the Conditions already mentioned. If at any Time they ſhould have Occaſion to put their Names to the Affairs of the Society, they may, as a Mark of Diſtinction, make the Addition of *S. H.* (*Socius Honorarius*) to their Subſcriptions. They ſhall enjoy all the Privileges of ordinary Members.

V.

All the ordinary Members ſhall, upon their leaving *London*, be conſidered as Correſponding Ones. Men of Eminence in the Profeſſion, not reſident in *London*, may alſo be propoſed as Correſponding Members; to be determined by Ballot, in the Manner obſerved in the Choice of Honorary and ordinary Members.

CHAP. VI.

LIBRARY.

RULE I.

That a Library, of medical, chirurgical, and philoſophical, Books, may be purchaſed for the Benefit of the Society, every ordinary Member ſhall, at the Time of his Admiſſion, pay Five Shillings; and, while he continues to attend the Meetings of the Society, ſhall alſo pay One Shilling every Fortnight, (*to be collected the firſt Week of it,*) under the Penalty hereafter mentioned, towards the Eſtabliſhment of a Fund for this Purpoſe. If a Member,

ber, from the State of his Affairs, ſhould be obliged to diſcontinue his Attendance on the Society for more than four Months, he ſhall, during ſuch Interruption, be exempted from the Contribution for the Library: but, if the Interruption of his Attendance is leſs than four Months, he ſhall not be entitled to the above-mentioned Exemption, but muſt pay for the Library, juſt as he muſt have done had his Attendance at the Meetings of the Society been regular.

II.

The Money thus raiſed, with the Addition of the Fines that may become due, ſhall (after the Payment of what neceſſary Expences the Society may incur) be from Time to Time applied in purchaſing ſuch Books as ſhall be propoſed by the Committee, or by the Preſidents if they think proper, and afterwards approved of by the Society at large.

III.

Every Member of the Society ſhall be entitled to borrow Books from the Library; but ſhall not have more than one Work belonging to it in his Poſſeſſion at one Time; for which, at the Time of receiving, he ſhall depoſit, in the Hands of the Librarian, its full Value, and ſhall return it within a Fortnight after receiving it, if deſired by the Librarian, under the Penalty of Sixpence for every Day he keeps it, after being ſo deſired to return it. And, if a Member ſhould loſe any of theſe Books, he ſhall either forfeit the Money, ſo

depoſited,

depoſited, to the Librarian, or put other Copies of equal Value in their Place.

CHAP. VII.

LIBRARIAN.

RULE I.

He muſt be an Honorary Member.

II.

The Office of Librarian ſhall always be offered to the Apothecary of the Hoſpital. — In Caſe of Refuſal, the Librarian ſhall then be choſen from the ordinary Members who have attended one Seaſon; and the Perſon fixed on ſhall be made an Honorary Member.

III.

His Buſineſs ſhall be, to take Care of the Books; — to keep a Catalogue of them; — to give them out to ſuch Members as may have Occaſion for them; — and, when the Time allowed for their Peruſal is expired, to call them in again. He ſhall not be obliged to give out Books at any Time, except one Hour before the Meeting of the Society. On Failure at this Time, if he doth not depute ſome Perſon to act for him, he ſhall be fined One Shilling.

IV.

A Catalogue of the Books ſhall be annexed to every printed Copy of the Laws, to be given to each of the Members.

V.

V.

The Librarian ſhall alſo be inveſted with the Office of Treaſurer, and in this Character ſhall receive Payment of all Debts due to the Society. From the Money, which he ſhall thus receive, he ſhall defray the Expences of the Society, and ſhall be accountable to it for the Balance.

CHAP. VIII.

SECRETARY.

RULE I.

A Secretary ſhall be annually choſen from thoſe who were Members the preceding Seaſon.

II.

His Duty ſhall be, to keep Minutes of the Society's Tranſactions; — to read aloud the Minutes, and Liſt of Members, when neceſſary; — to collect and keep an Account of Fines, Admiſſion, and Subſcription, Money; — to be accountable to the Treaſurer for thoſe Sums which he (the Secretary) ſhall receive from the Society's Debtors; — and to collect Ballots and Votes.

III.

He ſhall give in, on the firſt *Saturday* of every Month, an Account of the Society's Money, &c. and, in Failure thereof, the Treaſurer

Treaſurer ſhall be fined One Shilling. At the End of the Seaſon he may be propoſed an Honorary Member.

IV.

If he fails in drawing up the Minutes, or commits any Fault in his Office, he ſhall be liable to a Fine of One Shilling, determinable by a Majority of the Society.

CHAP. IX.

Constitution of a Quorum.

Rule I.

Five Members, when legally met, ſhall be ſufficient to conſtitute a Quorum, and ſhall be entitled to proceed in the Tranſaction of Buſineſs, according to the Laws, excepting what regards the Repealing, Suſpending, or Altering of the Laws: But a ſmaller Number, unleſs formed into a Committee, ſhall have no Power to do any Thing relating to the Society.

II.

Ten Members, when legally met, (but no ſmaller Number,) ſhall be entitled to make, and determine upon, Propoſals for repealing, ſuſpending, and altering, Laws, according to Chap. XV. which more particularly preſcribes the Rules to be obſerved in ſuch Proceedings.

CHAP. X.

VISITORS.

RULE I.

Each Member ſhall have the Privilege of introducing One Gentleman, but no more, at every Meeting of the Society, during public Buſineſs, in the Character of Viſitor. The Preſidents, however, ſhall not be limited in this Reſpect.

II.

The ſame Gentleman ſhall not be introduced as a Viſitor more than twice in a Seaſon; and any Member breaking this Rule, by attempting again to introduce ſuch a one, ſhall be fined One Shilling.

III.

No Viſitors ſhall be admitted after Seven o'Clock *(the Time of Meeting)* without the Member introducing ſuch being fined Sixpence: And this ſhall be obſerved by honorary as well as ordinary Members, the Preſidents excepted.

IV.

The Secretary ſhall always be in the Room, where the Society meets, five Minutes before the Hour of Meeting, for the Purpoſe of delivering printed Tickets for ſuch Gentlemen as are entitled to be introduced; and, upon the Preſident's taking the Chair, every Mem-

ber who has introduced a Viſitor ſhall deliver the Ticket into the Hands of the Preſident: Upon which the Preſident will read the Names of the Viſitors and the Perſons introducing them.

V.

The Viſitors ſhall be entitled to offer whatever Obſervations may occur to them, or whatever Opinions they may entertain concerning the Subject under Conſideration; to deliver any new Intelligence they may have received, relating to Medicine or the Sciences connected with it, and to join in the Debates of the Society.

VI.

The Viſitors ſhall not be preſent during the Tranſaction of private Buſineſs.

CHAP. XI.

COMMITTEE.

RULE I.

At the Commencement of every Seaſon, a Committee ſhall be appointed, conſiſting of Eight of the Members: One Half to be choſen by the ſitting Preſident; the other by the Society at large. This Committee ſhall tranſact ſuch Buſineſs as cannot conveniently be done by the whole Society, and ſhall make regular Reports of their Proceedings to the Society.

II.

II.

The Gentlemen of the Committee may themſelves fix the Time of their Meeting: But, after it is determined, any Member of it, who fails to attend at the Time appointed, ſhall forfeit One Shilling; unleſs he can produce a ſufficient Excuſe on or before the next Meeting of the Society.

III.

No ordinary Member, under the Penalty of a Shilling, when choſen, can refuſe to engage in any Committee, unleſs he can give a Reaſon for his Refuſal, which ſhall appear ſufficient to the Majority of the Society.

CHAP. XII.

When any Queſtion, relating to the private Buſineſs of the Society, occurs, any Gentleman preſent may demand a Determination by Ballot.

CHAP. XIII.

Order of the Business, &c.

Rule I.

The Buſineſs of the Society ſhall be of two Kinds; viz. public and private.

II.

The public Buſineſs ſhall conſiſt in the Communication of Facts and Opinions; in

the Reading of Diſſertations, and the Remarks which theſe may ſuggeſt to the Members and Viſitors.

III.

The private Buſineſs ſhall be formed by every other Tranſaction, relating to the Society, not comprehended under the Head of public Buſineſs.

THE ORDER OF THE BUSINESS, AT EVERY MEETING, SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER.

1. The Names of the ordinary Members called over at Seven o'Clock.

2. Viſitors declared by the Preſident.

3. The public Minutes of the preceding Meeting read.

4. Medical News enquired for, and the Remarks which may be ſuggeſted in Conſequence thereof. This to be concluded at Eight o'Clock.

5. The Diſſertation ſhall be read and diſcuſſed. This to conclude at Half paſt Nine.

6. The private Minutes ſhall be read and confirmed, the Viſitors having previouſly withdrawn.

7. The Members elected at the laſt Meeting ſhall be formally admitted, the Preſident taking each by the Hand and declaring him a Member; not, however, until he has ſigned his Name under a Promiſe (in one of the Society's Books) to obſerve the Laws and promote

note the Intereſt of the Society. In Caſe of Failure, ſee CHAP. IV.

8. Members are next to be propoſed in the Manner laid down in CHAP. IV.

9. The Author, with his Subject for the next Evening, declared, and his Paper received, as required in CHAP. II. RULE III.

10. The Ballot ſhall be declared.

11. After all this and any other private Buſineſs (as looking into the State of Accounts, &c.) is finiſhed, the Money ſhall be collected, and ſuch Members as are not preſent, and who have not authorized ſome other Perſons to pay for them, ſhall be fined, as at CHAP. XIV. RULE VI.

12. The Whole of the Buſineſs ſhall be concluded by Ten o'Clock.

CHAP. XIV.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.

RULE I.

Any Member, having a Deſire to accuſe another, in Order that he ſhould be expelled, muſt give in ſuch Accuſation, with his Reaſons, to the Preſident in Writing; which is to be read to the Society by the Preſident, the Accuſer's Name being kept ſecret,) and the Queſtion balloted for. Ten Shillings and ſixpence muſt accompany the Accuſation, that, in Caſe it is rejected, the Money may be

be depoſited in the Society's Fund : But, i the Accuſation is found ſufficient, the Preſi- dent ſhall return the Money, ſo depoſited to the Accuſer.

II.

Two-thirds of the Society preſent muſt ap- prove of the Accuſation, otherwiſe it wil not be ſuſtained.

III.

The Ballot determining this Point ſhall b a ſecret one, either by Papers or Balls.

IV.

The accuſed Member ſhall be preſent a the Meeting which is to decide on his Accu ſation ; and, for this Purpoſe, the Secretar ſhall give him Information in Writing, ſom Time between the Meeting on which the Ac cuſation is made and the next Meeting of th Society ; ſpecifying the Meeting on whic the Queſtion is to be determined, and ſum moning him to attend.

V.

A Fortnight ſhall intervene between th Meeting on which the Accuſation is mad and that on which it is to be determined But the Society may either ſhorten or pro long the Time, at the Deſire of the Member if the Reaſons given are found ſufficient.

VI.

Any Member, indebted to the Society fo Fines or otherwiſe, ſhall forfeit Sixpence, ir

Addition

Addition, if he does not discharge the Debt in a Fortnight: If he does not pay it the next Meeting, One Shilling more; and, if he neglects it the fourth Week, he shall be *ipso facto* expelled. Again, any Member, indebted to the Society, going out of Town, and not substituting some one to pay for him, or sending a sufficient Excuse in a Month, shall be *ipso facto* expelled.

CHAP. XV.

Altering the Laws.

Rule I.

None of the Laws, which are already, or which hereafter may be, made, shall be repealed, suspended, or altered, without the Consent of three-fourths of the Society present: Nor, without the same Consent, can any new Law, inconsistent with any of those in being at the Time, be enacted. As soon, however, as three-fourths of the Society have agreed to the Necessity of altering the Laws, then such new ones as are proposed shall be determined by a Majority of the Society.

II.

In Order to the Repeal, Suspension, Alteration, or Enaction, of Laws, a Proposal to that Purpose, in Writing, must be delivered to the President, read by him in the Presence

Preſence of the Society, and entered in the Minutes a Month before it can be balloted for: And, if it is rejected, the Member who made it ſhall forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence.

FINIS.

*** *The Liſt of Officers and Members, and the Catalogue of Books, are printed ſeparately.*